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THE STORY TELLER.

Written for the Oxford Democrat.

PARSON GREY'S DAUGHTER, AND THE CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

BY MISS H. E. M.

Did you ever see Parson Grey's daughter?

If you have, you have seen one of the merriest, the wildest, most joyous-hearted beings our village could boast of—a very compound, in short, of fun, frolic and humor. But I see you lift up your hands in astonishment at this description of a parson's daughter, who, in all probability, you hold should be a model of sobriety and womanly decorum. But such was not Annie Grey—so it was universally said—though her father was as grave and solemn of port as all clergymen should be, and seldom smiled except when he smoothed down the bright curls of his darling pet, and her mother, a meek, quiet woman, who was much predisposed to taciturnity, and who, except on Sundays, seldom ventured beyond the precincts of her own peaceful dwelling.

Annie was a little too wild, perhaps—that was what all the staid dames of our village said, and Deacon Sullivan's wife, in particular, was many times heard to observe, she thought it shocking in a young lady to behave as she did, and thanked Heaven her Georgianna had some natural sense of propriety. No one had the audacity to repeat these remarks to Parson Grey; but some of the good gossips, out of pure kindness of course, sometimes took the liberty to impart them in a friendly manner to Mrs. Grey.

Whether Mrs. Grey ever repeated what she heard to her husband, or not, was never known, or determined by her informers. One thing was certain, however, that whether she did or not, Parson Grey's disposition to indulge his daughter in her frolicsome propensities, never suffered any sensible diminution, and that even when she actually came dancing into his study, instead of gravely frowning upon this infringement of decorum, he would lift his eyes from the massive volume before him, and laying his hand kindly on her head, say with something like pride on his benevolent features—"God bless you, darling."

But I have not told you all yet about Parson Grey's daughter. Possibly you are anticipating to hear our heroine was a beauty as heroines are, and of course expect a full-length portrait of her charms. But Annie Grey was not a beauty—she was never termed such even by those who made no pretensions to be critics. Her large and irregular features would not allow the term beautiful to be applied to her countenance; yet there was so much to redeem this defect in its sunny and joyous expression, together with her sparkling, clear, bright hazel eyes, that no one ever thought of calling Annie Grey plain. Besides she had remarkably beautiful hair of a bright sunny auburn, which she sometimes twined in one glossy braid around a head that would have charmed a phenologist, and sometimes suffered to fall in natural curls over her neck, much to the discomfiture of Miss Georgianna Sullivan, who used to stand while hours before her glass, trying vainly to make her own "lily white locks," as Barns himself, in the papering process, did fairly vexed at her ill success, she would declare Annie Grey needn't be so proud of her curls, for she didn't look any better with them than any body else.

Our heroine as rigidly eschewed all ornament as ever did a quakeress; and there was quite a contrast exhibited between her and the last-mentioned young lady, particularly on Sundays, when they entered church, one in her plain simple muslin, and the other in rich silk that rustled at every step, so as to cause the whole congregation to turn their heads at her entrance. Yet notwithstanding this, Miss Georgianna often had the mortification of seeing Annie preferred to herself on many occasions; at all the May parties in the village, Parson Grey's daughter was invariably crowned queen; at school, the teacher was always praising Annie, without bestowing a word of recommendation upon her, though she declared frequently that Annie did nothing but draw pictures on her slate, and cut up such pranks all day long, to make her companions laugh. It was not to be denied that Annie was a little roguish at times—we all knew it; but her correct recitations, and her wonderful proficiency in knowledge, left room for query as to the exactness of Miss Georgianna's statement, though her sagacity, being a deacon's daughter, was of course unquestionable.

By and by these young ladies ceased to attend school; but Miss Georgianna's animosity towards her more volatile friend did not cease with their school girl rivalry. In spite of her rustling silks and gaudy ribbons, she found herself superior to the humble and unostentatious Annie, in what was to her the most desirable of all acquisitions, it would seem, the regards of their young acquaintances of the other sex. This was quite unpardonable, and Miss Georgianna resented the offence with becoming spirit. But her resentment, which she manifested in various ways, particularly by an air of great hauteur towards her rival, availed nothing; the sprightly, witty, and good natured daughter of Parson Grey, lost nothing in the favor of the village beaux, though Miss Georgianna was often heard to declare she could not see what made them make so much of the little minx, as she was pleased to term her sometimes, for she wasn't any handsomer than other folks, and her father though a good man, was not half as rich as some others in the village.

At length an incident occurred, which served to appease in a very considerable degree, the often wounded self-love of Miss Georgianna, and to increase her self-estimation in a proportionate manner. There was a charitable society of long standing in our village, and on the removal of its secretary, Miss Georgianna, who, as soon as there was a prospect of a vacancy in that office, became a very zealous advocate of the cause of benevolence, was appointed to fill her place.

Deacon Sullivan's daughter now became, of course, a personage of considerable consequence among us, particularly in her own estimation. She forgot all her enmity towards Annie Grey, and whenever she met her, greeted her with a most graciously patronizing air, taking care to let her know it was a condescension she ought to appreciate. But Annie, with an obtuseness quite unnatural to her, seemed perfectly unconscious of the condescension on the young lady's part, and observed with a very demure expression of countenance, to some of her acquaintances, she wondered what could be the reason of such a change in Miss Georgianna's appearance.

—for so she was called among her young friends—towards her, having once been exceedingly sullen and proud.

Annie had just passed her eighteenth year, when an event of considerable importance, particularly to the younger portion of our community, occurred in our village. A young lawyer, of considerable celebrity made his appearance among us, and finding the prospect of obtaining a practice in his profession quite encouraging, settled down contentedly in our midst. His name, Henry Carlton, Attorney at Law, soon appeared in large gilt characters over the door of a small shop in our vicinity; and as lawyers had hitherto been lamentably scarce among us, we were disposed to feel quite an interest in the new comer.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to give the reader a brief sketch of this, to us, important personage. Lawyer Carlton was a young bachelor, having seen the shady side of twenty-six, and was, perhaps, one of the finest specimens of generally are, and of course expect a full-length portrait of her charms. But Annie Grey was not a beauty—she was never termed such even by those who made no pretensions to be critics. Her large and irregular features would not allow the term beautiful to be applied to her countenance; yet there was so much to redeem this defect in its sunny and joyous expression, together with her sparkling, clear, bright hazel eyes, that no one ever thought of calling Annie Grey plain. Besides she had remarkably beautiful hair of a bright sunny auburn, which she sometimes twined in one glossy braid around a head that would have charmed a phenologist, and sometimes suffered to fall in natural curls over her neck, much to the discomfiture of Miss Georgianna Sullivan, who used to stand while hours before her glass, trying vainly to make her own "lily white locks," as Barns himself, in the papering process, did fairly vexed at her ill success, she would declare Annie Grey needn't be so proud of her curls, for she didn't look any better with them than any body else.

which she of course appropriated to herself. She told her friend and confidante, Miss Sullivan, that she was just like a gentleman man she ever saw; he was just like a gentleman man she had read of in a novel; in short, had Miss Georgianna's panegyrics been all collected in one volume, they would have swelled it to considerable size. An extra hour was now spent at her toilet; and could her glass have spoken, like Miss Jane Taylor's, it would most undoubtedly have expressed itself highly flattered at the attention it received from its mistress. One thing, however, occasioned her a little uneasiness. The pew in which Annie Grey sat on Sundays, was directly opposite to the one which Lawyer Carlton usually occupied, and she thought his eyes wandered a little too frequently from the speaker in the pulpit, to rest on the upturned face of his daughter. To counteract the favorable impression this might make upon his mind, she frequently made Annie Grey the theme of their conversation, and entertained the young man with various accounts of the improprieties our humble little heroine had been guilty of, in consequence of her well known flustering propensities. Our lawyer listened with apparent complaisance, said "ah" and "indeed" but as soon as Miss Georgianna's extreme loquacity upon this subject allowed him a chance for further utterance, changed the theme of conversation by alluding to some other.

One afternoon, on which the members of the charitable society had appointed a meeting, Miss Georgianna called on our young friend.

"I thought I would just drop in," said she, after the usual exchange of compliments, "to see if you were going to Mrs. M.'s this afternoon. I am going, and I thought if you were, I would accompany you."

"You are very kind, George," said Annie, still calling her friend by the name she had been accustomed to call her in their school days, notwithstanding that young lady had politely addressed her as Miss Grey. "I am sorry to disappoint you, but I think I shall not go this afternoon."

"Indeed!" said Miss Georgianna, "I am afraid you have made this decision in haste. Can I not persuade you to go?"

"Oh no! I assure you, my decision was made with due deliberation. I think I shall abide by it."

"Really, Miss Grey, excuse me, but I think you are very singular. I am sure I would not stay away from one of our meetings for all the world. I should consider it a violation of duty."

"Possibly you would," said Annie with a smile. "But people see differently. You know I have not the honor of being secretary of our society, and therefore my presence is not so necessary as yours. I presume it will hardly be missed."

Miss Georgianna smiled very complacently while Annie was speaking, and drew up her head with an exceedingly self-satisfied air.

"Very well then, Miss Grey," said she, "I will excuse your absence to the society, if you are fully determined upon staying away."

"Oh no! you need not trouble yourself, George, to frame an excuse for me," said Annie quickly. "The fact that I am not there will be obvious enough, and you may leave them to form their own conjectures concerning the reason of my absence."

Miss Georgianna looked as if she would say, "you are a very strange girl," but she did not; and changed the subject by touching upon the inquiry—

"Have you seen Mr. Carlton lately?"

"I have not, since I saw him at church," was the reply.

"Indeed! then he does not call here?" Miss Georgianna said, placing a marked emphasis on the last word.

"Not so often as he does at some places. I have been told," answered Annie, with an arch look at her friend. "By the way, George, I have heard that Mr. Carlton was an admirer of yours. Pray, was the information correct?"

"I hope you don't suppose I shall tell you," the young lady replied, throwing back her head, and affecting a contemptuous air, which, notwithstanding, did not prevent Annie from seeing that she was vastly pleased with her words.

Carlton must certainly have been charmed with the degree of perfection which Miss Georgianna's exhibited. If such a charm, however, was wrought, the gentleman seemed in no haste to acknowledge it; nor did he overtake Miss Georgianna, till both had proceeded a considerable distance.

"You have made Miss Grey a call this afternoon, I perceive," Mr. Carlton said, after the customary compliments of the day had been exchanged. "Allow me to inquire if she is well?"

"Oh, she is quite well, sir," replied Miss Georgianna, a little surprised that the lawyer should inquire so particularly for her friend's health. "Perhaps, Mr. Carlton, you are surprised that I should call on her?" she added significantly. "Indeed, I was quite reluctant to, but I could not very well avoid it."

"Then Miss Grey is not a particular friend of yours, I infer."

"Not she, Mr. Carlton. I make it a point to confine my intercourse with her to very narrow limits."

"You surprise me, Miss Sullivan," said the gentleman, though in truth his indifferent manner did not go far towards confirming his words.

"You have not as yet been made acquainted with Miss Grey, have you?" Miss Georgianna continued.

"Not as yet. I have merely seen her," was the reply.

"Many people," pursued Miss Georgianna, determined by a by-way course to inform her friend of Carlton's sentiments concerning Annie Grey, for in truth, she had a supernatural dread of being eclipsed in his regards by her friend, "many people make it a point to form an estimate of one's character and qualities from one's general appearance at first sight. Were you ever in that habit, Mr. Carlton?"

"I sometimes do," said the lawyer, "but am frequently mistaken in my opinions. My first impressions concerning Miss Grey were quite favorable. I judged from her appearance she was a person of extreme amiability. Her countenance is remarkably intelligent and sprightly."

"Ah! Mr. Carlton, I trust you will not rely upon outward appearances. They are often deceptive, you know, and I fear in this case particularly so. I am sorry to say it," she added, casting down her eyes, and assuming an expression she intended should be quite tragic, "but I fear you would not be so well pleased with Miss Grey on acquaintance."

"Indeed!" said Carlton mechanically, without appearing to notice in the least what Miss Georgianna had said.

Slightly vexed at the lawyer's nonchalant manner and a little fearful lest, after all, her words should not have the desired effect upon him, Miss Georgianna determined not to give up the siege at this juncture, but continued, as she imagined, with great tact—

"I believe I have before informed you, Mr. Carlton, that she is a member of our society, and has been for several years. I assure you, she added, with perhaps more of triumph in her manner than she intended, "we could not with much propriety point her out to you as an example of zeal and disinterestedness in the cause we profess to promote. It is a matter of course with her to absent herself from our meetings, even when we have business of the utmost importance to transact, and that, too, without the least shadow of an excuse."

Many things more Miss Georgianna said upon this interesting subject, all of which filled, however, to produce any visible effect upon her auditor; but as it would be intruding too much upon our limits to repeat all that was said, we forbear, having entered into the details of the previous conversation merely for the purpose of giving the reader some idea of the manner in which that young lady endeavored to build her self up in the regards of the lawyer, and eventually prevent his seeking the acquaintance of Annie Grey—a procedure she was fearful would be of disastrous consequences to herself.

We will now return to the unconscious object of Miss Georgianna's discourse. After seeing her friend depart, and indulging herself in a long and hearty laugh at the ludicrousness of the supposition that Lawyer Carlton was Miss Georgianna's admirer, she tied on her bonnet and prepared herself for a walk.

Taking upon her arm a large and well-filled basket, whose contents were carefully concealed by a snowy napkin, she passed out and entered a narrow lane that led from the village. She had a son for her non-observance of the appointment, long way to go—nearly a mile; but absorbed in her own pleasing thoughts, the happy-hearted girl tripped lightly on, changing her heavy basket from one arm to the other, and some times pausing to cull flowers from the way-side.

There were no houses to pass by, and she met none till she reached the end of her walk—a circumstance she did not regret, for with the modesty that always accompanied true benevolence, she was unwilling that the purpose of her errand should be known. It was sometime before she reached her place of destination, a low, small, mean-looking house, with broken windows and half-decayed walls, that looked what indeed it was, the abode of poverty and drunkenness. There it was, that she was to give the reader a brief sketch of its inmates, before proceeding to their father was reclining, fearful lest he should awake and repeat his former abuses of them.

Annie greeted them with a kind word for each, and then placing her basket quietly down in

one corner of the room, sat down by the mother's side. She soon found that Mrs. Farrell's maternal alarm was not without foundation, for the child was very sick; but she endeavored to quiet its cries, and was partially successful in the attempt, though she did not succeed in allaying the fears of the mother.

It would require too much time to relate all the particulars of Annie's visit. She remained there the rest of the afternoon, and found, when the time came to give the children their evening meal, that the contents of her well-filled basket did not come amiss, for they must otherwise have gone supperless to bed. In the evening Parson Grey came for his daughter; but little Lucy continued so ill, and Mrs. Farrell was so much alarmed concerning her, that Annie, after a short consultation with her father, concluded to remain during the night. The child was no better the next morning, and when Annie left her, it was with the fear that she would not recover.

This fear was soon confirmed, for little Lucy grew worse slowly from day to day. Both Annie and her father were unremitting in their exertions to lighten this new affliction; and what leture the former could seize from her domestic employments, was cheerfully and kindly devoted to the sick child. Medical aid was also procured through their influence; but it was of little avail. The malady increased daily, and after a week of great suffering, little Lucy expired in her mother's arms. Mrs. Farrell was calm and resigned under this dispensation of providence; but the father, now thoroughly sobered, was half frantic at the death of the child who had once been his pet and favorite. Annie was there at the time of its death, and her father having been called suddenly away on important business, the office of spiritual comforter devolved upon herself. And faithfully did she perform that office. Her true character was for once displayed in its native beauty. The light-hearted, joyous, frolic-loving girl showed herself the true woman. When she had in some degree calmed the violence of his grief, in the most delicate manner possible, she gently urged upon him an abandonment of his recent habits for the sakes of those who were yet left to him, and held up to his view, pictures of the happiness he might yet enjoy, if he would leave the intoxicating cup forever. The poor man listened, humbled, subdued and repentant. Annie pleaded long, but a promise of future amendment at length rewarded her efforts. The promise was faithfully kept, for he soon after affixed his name to the temperance pledge, and became subsequently, a steady, sober and industrious man. Annie had the pleasure of knowing that this change was in part effected by her own efforts, and most happy was she, when Parson Grey laid his hand in blessing upon her head, and commended her for the part she had acted.

We will now return for a short time to Miss Georgianna. After the occurrences of the afternoon before alluded to, Mr. Carlton's visits, for some reason or other, became less frequent at Deacon Sullivan's than before. That this circumstance occasioned Miss Georgianna much disquiet, we are at liberty to suppose, from her frequent exclamations to her mother what could be the reason Mr. Carlton did not call so often as formerly. But poor Mrs. Sullivan could not give any satisfactory answer to the query, and the mystery remained unexplained.

Weeks passed on. Notwithstanding the evident decline of Mr. Carlton's friendship for Miss Georgianna, this young lady had sufficient tact to conceal the fact from her friends, and whenever an allusion to him was made in her presence, she would very modestly drop her eyes, and hide her face with her fan or handkerchief, as the case might be. Ever since the commencement of Lawyer Carlton's visits at Deacon Sullivan's, it had been noticed about that she was paying particular attention to Miss Georgianna. The probability that there would be an engagement between them was duly discussed among the good gossips of our village, and at length became little short of an absolute certainty. As might be supposed, Miss Georgianna did not take particular pains to suppress the rumor; and as no one ever ventured to repeat it to the young lawyer, it was of course suffered to remain unrefuted.

It was not long before the above mentioned rumor came to the ears of Annie Grey; but although she listened to the information in the most respectful silence, there was perhaps something of incredulity mingled with surprise in the expression of her face. Several times she had met Lawyer Carlton, and there was a warmth and cordiality in his manner towards her which must have been extremely flattering to the maiden's heart. But the idea of his vast superiority and her own natural diffidence of her abilities caused her to assume a degree of reserve in her presence, quite foreign to her sportive, fun-loving disposition. In the idea of his loving Georgianna Sullivan, there was something that appeared to her so little in accordance with his own high-souled nature, that she refused at once to yield credence to the report, even after it was nearly confirmed by Miss Georgianna's own lips. But she kept her own counsel.

Lawyer Carlton was passing down the street one morning to his office, when he happened to meet a boy whose appearance at once attracted

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Lawyer Carlton was passing down the street one morning to his office, when he happened to meet a boy whose appearance at once attracted

his notice. He was a lad of nine or ten summers, rather poorly though tidily clad, and with a countenance both intelligent and prepossessing. What first arrested Carlton's attention was that he carried in his hand a large and beautiful bouquet. Just as he was passing him, Carlton arrested his steps by placing his hand upon his shoulder and addressing him kindly, said—

"Have you flowers to sell my little fellow?" The boy looked surprised at the suddenness of the question, but he replied readily—

"No, sir, these are not to sell, but I will get you some if you wish."

"You need not trouble yourself; but allow me to ask whether you are going with that fine nosegay?" Carlton said, wishing to introduce a conversation with him.

"I am going to carry it to Miss Annie Grey, Parson Grey's daughter," replied the boy promptly.

"Indeed! did she request you to procure them for her?"

"No, sir, but she is very fond of flowers, and I am going to give these to her, because she has been so kind to us."

"You have chosen a very pretty gift for Miss Grey," Carlton said, becoming much interested in the subject. "She will be delighted with it, I presume?"

"Oh, yes," said the boy, his countenance brightening up with animation, "she told me that she loved flowers very much, and when I give them to her, she always thanks me so sweetly! Do you know her?"

"I have seen her," said Carlton evasively. "But come with me into my office a few moments, my good fellow, I want to have a little talk with you, but I will not detain you long."

Carlton's office was but a few paces from where they stood, and after a few moments' hesitation the little boy followed him in.

"Your name is Willie Farrell, is it?"

"Yes, sir, that is my name," replied the boy, regarding his inquirer with some surprise.

"Well, I wish to ask you a few questions, you have said Miss Grey has been very kind to you, in what respect has she been so kind?"

The boy replied by telling him how she had been in the habit of visiting them for a long time, how much she did for them when his little sister was sick and died, and that his mother had told him, it was Miss Annie who had persuaded his father to stay at home now, and to love them and be kind to them as he used to be. Carlton listened with deep interest and attention, occasionally, however, confusing the narrator by his excessive inquisitiveness.

"We all love Miss Annie," said the boy in conclusion. "She is always so kind, and never appears proud and haughty like Miss Georgianna Sullivan."

Carlton was too much absorbed in his thoughts to reply.

"Wouldn't you love one that had been so kind to you, and your mother and sisters?" said the little boy interpreting his silence into a negative.

"Oh, certainly I should," said Carlton with an irrepressible smile.

"Mother says, sir," he continued with great eagerness, "she does not wonder that Parson Grey lays his hand upon her head so often, and says, God bless you, darling, for he is not the only one that ought to say so."

"Nor do I wonder," said Lawyer Carlton partly in reply to the boy, and partly to himself.

After making a few more inquiries relative to the subject of their discourse, all of which were promptly answered, doubly rewarding the young lad for his trouble, Carlton said he would accompany him as far as Parson Grey's and make Miss Grey a call, himself. But the little boy did not find him quite so conversational a companion on the way thither, as he had been at first, for to tell the truth, the lawyer was occupied with his own thoughts. As they passed up the green lane that led to Parson Grey's mansion little Willie caught sight of Annie in her flower-garden, and leaving his companion without ceremony, ran to meet her.

"See here, Miss Annie," said the boy, excitedly displaying his bouquet before her eyes, before she had an opportunity of speaking. "See here, I have brought some flowers for you—Lawyer Carlton says I have chosen a very pretty gift for you."

"Lawyer Carlton did?" said Annie in surprise. "Thank you, Willie, these are very pretty in deed; but how happened Lawyer Carlton to say so?"

"Oh, I met him as I was coming along," was the reply and here he went on with great eagerness to relate what had passed; but just in the onset happened to look up and see the lawyer himself.

"Go on, Willie," said Annie, but just at that moment she too was made aware of the presence of a third party.

She started back, blushing and confused, while the lawyer approached with a graceful bow, and said—

"I trust, Miss Grey, I am not interrupting you. I encountered this little boy this morning, and guessed his name after a little conversation with him, having heard your father allude to him several times." Here Carlton would have made some allusion to the information in regard to herself which he had just heard, but the fear of warring the delicacy of her feelings prevented.

"He has brought you a very pretty and appropriate gift, I think," he added in conclusion, a little embarrassed himself at the awkward beginning he had made to the conversation.

Poor Annie's confusion rendered her quite at a loss for a reply, at first; but she at length so far recovered the use of her tongue, as to stammer something in response and to invite him to enter.

The invitation was of course readily accepted, and Annie found that her confusion insensibly diminished, as the lawyer, with a graceful

and peculiar to himself, drew her into conversation, though indeed, she sometimes felt a little embarrassed, as she encountered the dark eyes of the lawyer fixed upon her with a gaze of ardent yet most respectful admiration.

Carlton extended his call to considerable length, considering it was the first one, but then he was his own judge of propriety, and who had a right to censure? No one but Annie, surely, and we venture to assert that she did not once think of assuming such a right, in this case, at least, for the call was repeated again and again, and each time a little prolonged.

Time passed on, and the tongues of your good gossips were busy in forming conjectures, relative to the purpose of the lawyer's visits at Parson Grey's. Some thought he was under "concern of mind" as it was termed, and that he visited the parson so often to obtain counsel in regard to his spiritual affairs. It was not possible that Annie Grey, the little, wild, giddy-headed Annie Grey with all her irregularities, had anything to do with the visits of the sedate and sober-minded Mr. Carlton. And yet it was very strange that he should ride, walk, talk and sing so much with her. Lawyer Carlton certainly had not a very nice sense of propriety, or he would never do this.

At length there was an end put to all this conjecturing, and how, reader? Why in less than a year after the lawyer began to visit at Parson Grey's, there was a wedding at the house of the clergyman, and Annie Grey was the bride, Lawyer Carlton the bridegroom.

Miss Georgianna Sullivan was not present at the wedding, nor any of her family. She was quite indisposed, and indeed her disposition to congratulate the bride might well have been a matter of question. She certainly thought that Mr. Carlton would never stoop to marry a person like Annie Grey, and we, villagers, had no reason to doubt her assertion when we took her bodily stature into consideration, Miss Georgianna having been quite as remarkable for the height of her person, as for the height of her personal charms.

Parson Grey's daughter, as Mrs. Henry Carlton, subsequently become president of our charitable society, and has ever since enjoyed that enviable distinction. Lawyer Carlton makes large donations for the benefit of the society, and declares himself quite in favor of having similar societies organized in every place where there are any poor to look out for; he thinks their tendency no wise questionable, and that we are all in duty bound to support them; but he is still more in favor of practical benevolence, and of disposing of one's bounties in such a manner that the right hand may not know the deeds of the left. That both he and his wife are practical adherents to this doctrine, the daily acts of their lives will amply attest, and thus, dear reader, we leave them.

Paris, Oct. 1848.

For the Democrat.

SONG OF THE AGED MAN.

I'm an old man now, I'm an old man now, My locks are like the snow,

For the heart and face of eighty years Have spent upon my brow.

My lip has lost its look of pride, My eyes are bearing bold,

And I step no more with a stately tread; But I'm glad that I am old!

They say that Childhood's heart is light, And I know it is sometimes so, That its present life is unclouded sky,

To which Hope gives a golden glow. But the great which come on the tender heart Weigh heavily and cold.

I ask not Childhood's years again, I'm glad that I am old!

And Manhood, with its pride of strength, Its deep, thrilling heart,

Its brilliant hopes, bounds eagerly Into life's crowding mart—

And gives, to disappointment's sore, To its wealth untold:

Is better, better, is no tear! I'm glad that I am old!

And Middle Age, with searching eye, And watchful hand,

May seek for knowledge, and the world We seek for laurels for his name—

Yes, from the self-approving toil, Repaid with fame and gold, May turn away with weary heart:

I'm glad that I am old!

For Childhood's joys are all too light To satisfy the mind,

And Manhood's restless, burning heart Leaves quiet peace behind.

To calmly look on the busy strife, To calmly look on the busy strife, To calmly look on the busy strife:

I'm glad that I am old!

"Tis Hope gives the golden glow to youth, Toward some glittering goal of earthly joys,

She whispers may be won. But more glorious far is the hope of Heaven To him, whose name's enrolled:

In the Book of Life, when earth's almost past: I'm glad that I am old!

Death cuts the string of flowers from Childhood's life, The roses from Manhood's heart,

Yet the path of his must be trodden on With agonizing smart.

Age stands at the gate of the Spirit Life, Which Death shall soon unfold, Where parting is not, or care, or strife:

O, I'm glad that I am old!

For the Democrat.

HINTS TO TEACHERS.

As this is a season when teachers occupy the most responsible stations in society, I cannot forbear to suggest a few ideas, that may serve to remind them of their greatly increased responsibilities, arising from their increased advantages.

It is expected that teachers at the present time, enjoying superior advantages for qualifying themselves, will very much improve upon those modes of instructing and disciplining schools, which were practiced some ten or fifteen years since. But are such expectations realized? I fear that in many instances our schools would be poorly prepared for such a comparison. Our schools are conducted on entirely different measures, and we are happy to say that some of those changes are for the better; yet in addition to these improvements, if some of our present teachers could become more sensibly impressed with the indispensable necessity of sustaining good order in their schools, and that strict observance of proper school regulations, which were formerly so rigorously inculcated, it would be still a greater improvement. But in establishing a wholesome discipline great care and caution should be exercised, that they may at the same time elicit and secure a laudable emulation in their various studies. And this can be the most successfully effected by teaching them to teach themselves, or in other words, to think for themselves. Suffer not your pupils to rely with too great a dependence upon their books and the particular questions and answers therein found. But accustom them to thoroughly investigate every principle with which they meet, until they have become perfect masters of them practically considered. And among other things teach them the importance of becoming their own masters of time, and that this may be secured by being ever prompt at the time appointed, and not permitting themselves to be delayed unless by unavoidable circumstances.

SUGMA.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

"The Unpleasant must be preserved."

PARIS, MAINE, JANUARY 2, 1849.

The old year and the new one.

The old year has gone. A new one has dawned upon us. How has it been with the past? How will it be with the future? Friends! we hope your remembrances are sweet; and we wish you a "Happy New Year."

Since we started with you on the voyage of life, our course, so far as our paper is concerned, is known to you. We have performed what we believe to be our part of the contract entered into at the commencement. The continuance of our paper, we take as an evidence that our labors have not been altogether unacceptable. We commenced in weakness; your smiles and favors have given us strength, and, if continued, will make us still stronger and more able to serve you and the cause of civil liberty and equal laws. While its friends endeavor to secure to the *County Paper* the patronage it deserves, and the recompense it has earned, but not yet fully received.

Our happy country has passed through, the past year, a political contest of unusual severity and character. The whole country has been agitated by the contending forces of two great parties—the supporters of democracy and its opponents. The friends of democracy have been disappointed in finding themselves overpowered, outvoted; not by a party superior of itself, but aided by a despicable faction; but, notwithstanding, they have no cause for despondency. The principles for which they contended have not been destroyed—their progress has only been stayed for a season, and an ultimate triumph is morally certain. In this contest we have taken an active and zealous part. The *Oxford Democrat* was started as a supporter of the democratic cause, and we have labored to the extent of our ability for its success. In looking over the past we have no regret in this respect. Our paper may have contained too much political matter and too little miscellaneous, to please the general reader. Hereafter, while we shall not abandon the cause of our choice, we hope to so enlarge our paper as to contain a greater number of literary and miscellaneous articles than it has done, and we trust there will be no complaint of its lack of a pleasing variety. We shall watch the progress of the new administration and expose its errors—while at the same time we shall not fail to approve of all its measures that are democratic.

The difficulties in the monetary affairs of the country are nearly settled. If the Independent Treasury system is allowed to remain, a greater stability to the currency, a revival of business, and, with the tariff of '46, a rapid, yet sure and legitimate development of the vast resources of the whole country may be expected to continue.

During the past year, Agriculture, in the aggregate, has been rewarded by luxuriant and abundant crops; Manufacturers with good profits; Commerce has flourished, and all the great staples of industry have been generally rewarded; and we have been free from the spirit of speculation, hitherto, highly injurious to the development of our natural resources, and prosperity of the whole country.

While Europe is agitated with wars and rumors of wars—while many of the population of the rich and powerful governments are starving for want of food on which to subsist, growing in ignorance, and sighing for the enjoyment of rational liberty—our country, freed from a justifiable, though perplexing war, all its difficulties amicably settled, is peaceful and happy; its newly acquired territory, with its newly discovered acres of gold—which may prove a blessing, if not abused, and what is still better,

the inhabitants of this territory being brought under the influence of our free institutions—the large and growing population of our country, blessed with an abundance of the products of the earth, and enjoying to a greater extent than any other people on the face of the globe, the benefits of education, and their unalienable political rights. How much cause have we to be thankful! Our privileges are too great to be numbered! Let a nation of freemen rejoice!

But a word for the press and ourselves. The art of printing is destined, probably, to survive while civilized communities shall exist; hence we infer that newspapers will continue to aid in the progress of humanity so long as, in the progress of the earth's revolutions, new years shall come round. Moreover, as each new year gives way to its successor, so shall each new paper give its time, have its influence in a greater or less circle, upon the public mind, and pass away into the shadows of the past. And yet, if it be a medium for proclaiming TRUTH, if it but make a good or bad impression upon the public mind, that impression shall long remain for good or for evil, while the TRUTH which shall have been proclaimed will live on through all changes—and who can fix the bounds of its continuance?

The Press is a powerful instrument. In our country, free as it is, and ever ought to be, who can calculate the degree of its influence? This influence principally exerted by the thousands of newspapers which are sent, as it were, upon the wings of the wind, into every nook and corner of our vast territory; from the icy regions of the extreme North, to the sunny prairies of the far West. How important, then, that this influence be thrown in a good direction.

Our political sentiments are advanced in the OXFORD DEMOCRAT, weekly, are sufficiently known without giving them more fully in this place. All we ask is to be impartially judged by our acts—this only have we a right to ask of the public. We shall continue as heretofore to venture upon "the boldest ocean of political passion," making Democracy the guiding star of our little bark in its weekly voyages. If she be well freighted with an unprejudiced democratic cargo, and provided with chart and compass, and all things necessary to her in storm and in calm, in fair sailing, or on black and dangerous coasts, then will she, with the breath of popular favor filling her sails, and propelling her onward, finish her course, having done something for the advancement of humanity and the glory of our common country.

With these remarks, we again put off from the peaceful shore of private tranquility upon the rough sea of political controversy, hoping to find occasionally a green spot on which we may meet those with whom we differ on political subjects, with good will and friendly intercourse.

We extend a friendly hand, without distinction of party, to our editorial brethren. Towards our political opponents, we would cherish no unkind feelings, but wish them all the happiness to be derived from the administration of their "no party" President, carrying out democratic principles; hoping that a mere difference of opinion will not prevent the performance of those little offices of friendship, which in all communities lighten the cares and sweeten the intercourse between man and man.

In conclusion, if we are permitted, by the unceasing goodness of the GIVER of all good, to behold the light of another New Year, may it find us, as a nation united, our glorious Union more strongly cemented; the rights of the States preserved inviolate; all the great interests of the country—Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce, prosperous; and the whole people, advancing in all that adorns and purifies, and elevates humanity, giving the noble example, for other nations that are now shrouded in the darkness of a FREE PEOPLE GOVERNING THEMSELVES BY LAWS FOUNDED UPON THE IMMUTABLE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE.

In another column will be found a resolution passed by the House of Representatives on the 21st ult., and the action of the Southern members, assembled in Caucus, in consequence of its passage. The Argus says in relation to it: "No bill touching slavery, either in the District of Columbia or in the territories, passed this session, will receive Mr. Polk's signature. When he signed the Oregon bill last summer, he made his intentions on that subject very distinctly understood in a special message. The action of the house, therefore, is more than enough to show that the Union was virtually dissolved by the proceedings in Congress."

Mr. Bailey, of Va., introduced a series of resolutions, setting forth the grievances of the South, in one of which there was a distinct declaration, that the Union was virtually dissolved by the proceedings in Congress.

Mr. Stephens, of Ga., succeeded in carrying a motion to refer these resolutions, in conjunction with the whole subject, to a Committee, consisting of one member from each slave State, which should be authorized to report on the 15th of January. He sustained this proposition, in a speech marked by his usual good sense and discretion, insisting that it did not become the South to take any violent steps until the North had irrevocably committed itself by some overt act of offence and wrong. Mr. Toombs seconded his colleague in nearly the same strain, and after adopting the suggestion the meeting adjourned.

BANK ROBBERY. We learn by a gentleman who left Augusta yesterday, that the Augusta Bank was broken open and robbed of \$40,000 sometime between Saturday night last and yesterday morning. An individual has been arrested on suspicion, and committed to jail, but none of the money was found on him. Parties who did not learn.

FLORIDA. While Queen Victoria was in the highlands she one day tied the veil of her hat under her chin, as it was rather chilly weather. "Adopted every lady in the country round" adopted the style, and in the hottest days of the season, loyally sweltered away in honor of the royal dame.

whether a man traffics in slaves in Washington or walks to Alexandria and makes his trade there. This is a question which federalism has prated about for years, and expressed great solicitation to see consummated. On the motion to lay the Bill on the table, all the Southern whigs voted yea; Abbot, Ashmun, Hale, and Grindle, of Massachusetts, all Whigs, dodged the vote; Mullin and Nelson, Whigs, of New York, dodged; Gregory, of New Jersey, Whig, dodged; Lincoln, of Illinois, Whig, dodged; Ness, Eckert, and Hampton, of Pennsylvania, Whigs, dodged; Taylor, of Ohio, Whig, dodged.

CONGRESS.

In the House on Thursday, Dec. 21, Mr. Gott, of New York, offered the following preamble and resolution:—

"Whereas, The traffic in human beings as chattels, within this metropolis of the republic, is contrary to national justice, to the fundamental principle of our political system, and is a notorious reproach to our country throughout Christendom, and a serious hindrance to the progress of republican liberty among the nations of the earth: therefore,

Resolved, That the committee for the District of Columbia, be instructed to report a bill as soon as practical, prohibiting the slave trade in said District."

This resolution was finally passed, 98 to 88.

On the announcement of its passage, the greatest confusion imaginable prevailed in the hall—the speaker with difficulty managing to make himself heard. At least one dozen of the members were on their feet at the same time, all striving to make motions, or to offer resolutions, of the most conflicting character possible.

Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, at length succeeded in making himself heard. He rose, he said, not for the purpose of making a speech, not for the purpose of appealing to the members of this or that section of the Union—for he very truly believed that the time for talking had passed. What was required to arrest the blighting footsteps of the northern fanatics was action—immediate, determined, concerted action. He would, therefore, suggest to his colleagues of South Carolina to vacate their seats, and at once withdraw from the hall.

The proposition was received with ill-suppressed bursts of laughter. It did not seem to be well relished even by the southern members.

As soon as everything like order was restored, Mr. Flournoy, of Virginia, introduced a resolution instructing the committee on the District of Columbia to report a bill retroceding the District of Columbia to the state of Maryland, except that portion of it which was covered by the public buildings.

After a few remarks of an animated but rambling character, the resolution was adopted.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer, says a meeting of the Southern members was held in the Senate Chamber on the evening of the 22d, to take into consideration such measures as might be deemed best adapted to the present emergency. Gov. Metcalf, of Kentucky, who attended as a spectator, was unexpectedly to himself—called upon to preside. The attendance was respectable, and numbered some seventy persons.

Mr. Calhoun's name and character produced an apparent sensation when he was announced on the floor. He proceeded to review, what he considered acts of aggression on the part of the North, in agitating the abolition of slavery in Congress, in pressing prohibitions, and in preventing the recalculation of fugitive slaves. In his judgment these were palpable infringements on the Constitution, and if persisted in, would lead to the most fatal consequences. While he was sincerely attached to the Union, he would not submit to a continuation of such indignities, and the time had come when the South was called upon by a sense of her honor and rights to take a decided stand.

Various propositions were submitted, some urging violent action, others prudence, and others again, postponement. Mr. Foote was for adopting very extreme measures, and he was seconded with even more ardent zeal by Mr. Westcott. The intemperate advocacy of these speakers enlisted little sympathy, except among the more ultra spirits, who came bent on mischief.

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For the Democrat.

CALIFORNIA GOLD.

For a few months past we have been astounded with the marvelous accounts of gold in California. Politicians who have been opposed to the Administration in the settlement of our Mexican difficulties, have told us that this newly acquired territory is utterly worthless, and yet it is destined to be the source of one of the greatest revolutions of the age. However incredible the reports that we have received from anonymous writers, it seems that none of them have gone beyond the fact, if indeed they have more than communicated a faint conception of the vast wealth of this hitherto wild and uncultivated part of the continent.

In a letter now before us, written from San Francisco, Sept. 17th, by a gentleman from Oxford County, we are assured that "men have dug from one to two thousand dollars of gold in a week. They only have to remove the loose soil and pick up the gold. Sometimes a streak of good luck will give them the amount of a thousand dollars worth in a single pile—sometimes more and sometimes less. Any man can dig by the day, from ten to thirty dollars without much labor. I could tell you many stories in relation to this matter, but suffice it to say that all I have said is true. Our only currency here is 'gold dust' at sixteen dollars an ounce. Goods sell at any price. You can hardly see a man in this place, no matter how poor he may have been, but has his bag full of the precious stuff. Labor averages from five to twenty dollars per day among the day laborers. Every thing is at the highest possible price, and of all the accounts you have heard, you can rely upon those that appear the most exaggerated. Every day offers some new thing more incredible than any that preceded it. All the traders from the Sandwich Islands have come here, and the constant arrival of new vessels has nearly filled the harbor."

This is a kind of news that has set the world in motion. Gold, gold, O what would not a man give for gold? Past ages have labored for it, and now that it can be had for the picking, who can anticipate any thing else than an active development of the acquisitiveness of those who make its accumulation the end of life? There will be a rush for California. Our cities are all agog for the land of promise; democrats and whigs, free soilers and anti free soilers, christians and sinners, join in the pursuit of gold. The stump of the orator and the altar of the professor of religion, will, too many of them, be lone places until this gold fever subsides. California will be settled at once, and with such a mixed multitude as may be a source of trouble to us in the future. It is possible too, that it may become the land of famine. Of all that goes there, none turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil. Now if, for any reason, the anticipated amount of produce should not arrive from the States, should promised ship loads be swallowed up in their long and dangerous passage around the Horn, or, as every thing goes on the haphazard principle, should other things be shipped instead of food, we might see scenes that would more than balance the worth of gold. But we will hope for the best, and as Providence has never forsaken us, this sudden addition to our wealth as a country, may be the means of advancing us in knowledge and virtue.

T.

Denmark, Me.

On the 23d the house was organized by the adoption of the resolves of Dr Townsend free soiler; Mr. Leiter, democrat, to act as chairman, and McClure, whig as clerk to perfect the organization.

Dr Townsend's resolutions are as follows:—

Resolved, That the certificates of membership which were handed to Mr. Swift, except those of Messrs Spencer and Runyon (Whigs), shall be passed to the Clerk's desk, and filed with those of the 42 on file—that, recognizing Mr. Leiter (Lewo), as Chairman for the purpose of organization, the first business transacted shall be the consideration of the following proposition:—

"Resolved, That Messrs Pugh and Pierce (Locos) are, by their certificates, prima facie entitled to seats until their claims shall be finally decided upon their merits." On which a resolution Pugh and Pierce shall not be entitled to vote, but the same shall be decided by the remaining seventy members. The vote on said resolution shall be decisive of the prima facie right of said Pugh and Pierce of seats; but nothing in the aforesaid proceedings shall be construed to interfere with the right of either Messrs Spencer and Runyon, or Pugh or Pierce, to contest for such seats after the organization.

GEN. TAYLOR'S CABINET. The New York Courier & Enquirer publishes the following extract of a letter received some time ago by a gentleman of that city from General Taylor:—

"Baton Rouge, March 2, 1848.

"If elected, I shall endeavor to organize my cabinet in such a manner as to secure a fair and enlightened representation about me of all the great interests of the country; and, as far as practicable, to represent all sections of the Union. It constructed upon such principles, it seems to me that the people should be satisfied; and I believe that such would be the case."

Z. TAYLOR.

It is understood here now, upon the most reliable authority, that should Mr. Clay's health be good, the Legislature of Kentucky will certainly elect him to the United States Senate, to take his seat after the 4th of March next—Washington Cor. Balt. Pat.

The Journal of Commerce says all difficulty and disgrace in which the legislature of Ohio is involved originated with the Whigs.

RAIL ROAD ACROSS PANAMA.

Messrs. W. H. Aspinwall, John L. Stephens, Henry Clay, and their associates, of the Pacific Mail Company, who already have a contract with the United States government for the transportation of the U. S. mail from Panama to California and Oregon, by steamships, have sent in a memorial to Congress, stating that they are ready to undertake and complete a rail road across the Isthmus of Panama, a distance of about fifty miles, within three years, provided Congress authorize them to do so, and will contract with them for the transportation on said road, for a period of twenty years, of the mails, navy and army supplies. The memorialists further state that they have at their own expense made a survey of a route across the isthmus, and are satisfied that a rail road may be constructed so as to complete the steam communication from one extreme of the country to the other. The mail route now from the Atlantic coast to Oregon, is by steamers to Chagres, thence across the Isthmus of Panama by canoes, a part of the distance on the Chagres river, and the remainder by land, to the Pacific side, and thence again by steamships. The right of passage across the isthmus is secured to the United States by a treaty with New Grenada. The route over it is represented as probably worse now than in the early days of Spanish dominion, when the gold of Peru passed over it to freight with almost fabulous wealth the argosies of Spain. No wheel carriage has ever attempted to cross it. The present mode of doing so is by canoe, up the Chagres river, set for a great part of the distance, by poles, against the current, and requiring twenty-eight to thirty hours to Cruces. Thence to Panama there is a mule road, difficult at all times for women and children, particularly with the effects of a moving or emigrating party, and during the rainy season almost impassable.

The memorialists also state that they have secured to themselves an exclusive right for ninety years, from the republic of New Grenada, for constructing a rail road across the isthmus, with the gratuitous right of way—an absolute gift of 300,000 acres of land to be selected by them; with the ports at the Atlantic and Pacific termini of the road, to be made free ports.

TREASURY REPORT.

The Washington correspondent of New York Herald, pronounces the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, "a singularly powerful document," and comments upon it as follows:

Coming at the precise time it does, at the close of the administration and the eve of another, which, it is supposed, will adopt a different line of commercial policy to that which at present exists, it is invested with an unusual degree of importance. Mr. Walker, during the four years in which he has guided the financial affairs of this country, has pursued a course widely different from that of his predecessors. He stepped boldly forward and declared that the true interests of the American people was to cut down commercial taxation, in its plausible form of "protection," and extend to all the world an invitation to buy and sell in our markets, unrestricted by those drags with which it had heretofore been deemed sound policy to encumber commerce. In adopting such a policy, it was at once lending to the subject of protection a new lease of life, and at the same time, by the principle of the American people was to cut down commercial taxation, in its plausible form of "protection," and extend to all the world an invitation to buy and sell in our markets, unrestricted by those drags with which it had heretofore been deemed sound policy to encumber commerce. In adopting such a policy, it was at once lending to the subject of protection a new lease of life, and at the same time, by the principle of the American people was to cut down commercial taxation, in its plausible form of "protection," and extend to all the world an invitation to buy and sell in our markets, unrestricted by those drags with which it had heretofore been deemed sound policy to encumber commerce.

A reduced tariff went into operation, in 1846. The opponents of that measure were confident of its failure. Two years have elapsed—the great champion of the measure is able to retire, perhaps for ever, from public life—but he is enabled proudly, triumphantly, to point to the overwhelming success which has attended the carrying out of his views. His has certainly been emphatically one of the greatest moral triumphs of any age. We have read many able arguments upon political economy; and whilst we mean not to deny that the subject has, perhaps, been as philosophically argued, its advantages as logically deduced, we must say, in all candor, without the slightest prejudice in the matter, that we have never read any argument which could compare to it as a plain practical and clear exposition of this great science—a science which affects in a greater or less degree every citizen of this Republic—almost every inhabitant of the globe.

A NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.—The free and independent Republic of Liberia has appointed the Rev. Mr. McLean, (Secretary of the American Colonization Society,) its Minister at the seat of Government of the United States.

FIRE AT WESTBROOK.

About 6 o'clock yesterday, (Thursday) morning, the Bank of Westbrook building, at Woodford's Corner, was discovered to be on fire. The building was of brick. The flames had obtained such head-way, before discovered, that they could not be controlled, and nothing is left of that neat edifice, but the blackened walls.

The building had evidently been entered by a gang of thieves, (who had selected that stormy night for their depredations,) and they had probably been at their nefarious work nearly all night. Their labors were directed to the safe, which was encased in brick, and defended by an extra iron door. The brick work was torn away, and the outer door wrenched from its position. The inner door was guarded by three locks, of the most approved construction. The efforts of the thieves did not succeed even in violating one of them. Like Hamlet's ghost, the approach of morning warned them to be off; and the villains, probably out of spite, set fire to the building. The outer protection to the safe being removed, the heat was so intense as to set fire to the safe, (being of old style.) The locks were destroyed by the fire and would not work; the books were only saved by wrenching the door open. The loss is estimated at \$800. The locks on the safe alone cost \$350.—Argus.

The Baltimore Sun proposes the following plan for the government to pursue relative to its gold lands in California, viz: "To establish a government agency in California at once, with the proper assisting officers—to receive, on account of the government, the gold from the miners and others, to estimate its value, and to issue therefor, at a discount of say twenty per cent, certificates or drafts, payable to the order of the depositors, at five or six months, at some of the treasurers' offices in the Atlantic cities. Whether a mint be established there or not, the advantages and feasibility of this plan are unquestionable. The gold digger will get a fair and regular price for his gold—or, rather, the gold that he digs; the government will receive all the advantage that can be desirable; a safe mode of remittance will be furnished; the gold being brought round in government vessels, or across the isthmus under a sufficient government guard; it will find its way to our cities, and be distributed, when coined, throughout the country. The plan meets the interest of all concerned, and does away with all necessity of coercion for the purpose of securing the rights of our government. These treasury drafts will also have the most beneficial effect in regulating the rates of value in the business transactions which will doubtless be carried on in the mining country on a very extensive scale."

THE BLACK SIDE. The following extract from a letter written by a responsible gentleman in California to the New York Courier and Enquirer. We think we shall stay at home: "Provisions are very scarce, and to obtain them many murders have been committed, or the purchase of them, at exorbitant prices, has indirectly, but eventually, led to murder. One story, relating to an affair of this kind, may deserve a good hole. A man who had what is called a good hole, had been digging necessarily for two days, when he was needed by one carrying a bucket containing gold of some kind. The whole of this the digger purchased for about one hundred dollars in virgin gold; and while devouring it, the man who had sold the provisions, took possession of the hole. After finishing his repast, the gold-hunter ordered the fellow out; but on his positively refusing to come, knocked his brains out with a pickaxe, took from the pockets of the corpse the virgin gold that had purchased a meal, and then dragging the body out of the hole, himself continued the digging. This, I believe, is really true, just as I have told it."

BACK AGAIN. The Washington National Intelligencer states that a gentleman whose dazzling prospect early induced to start for the gold diggings, by the Chagres route, has returned after getting as far as Panama, finding there two thousand persons entitled to precedence in the vessels from thence; and it is computed there are six thousand there now eager for a chance to San Francisco.

HANDSOME PRESENTS.—Collector Morton, at this port, received this morning, from the British Government, an elegant gold medal, to be presented to Capt Thomas Harris, of the bark Peru, as a token of esteem for his humane conduct in rescuing the crew of the British brig Britannia, from death, in 1846; one side of the medal was appropriately inscribed, surrounded by an elegant wreath of raised leaves and roses, and the reverse bore a likeness of Queen Victoria. It is a beautiful present, and we doubt not will be highly prized by Capt. H.

There was entered at the custom house this forenoon, an elegant brooch, studded with diamonds, intended as a present from the Sultan of Turkey to Professor Morse, the inventor of the magnetic telegraph. The duties on this token of esteem amounted to over \$120.—Journal.

DAN MARBLE WAS IN BOSTON THE OTHER DAY.

and strolling along the wharves, when he met a tall, gaunt looking figure, whose sun-burnt countenance, and tattered parti-colored garments originally of the most outlandish fashion, had that picturesqueness about them, derived only from long continued exposure to the atmosphere which fancy sketchers delight to present on canvas.

Dan, who never permits the lack of an introduction to interfere when he desires to form an acquaintance, hailed the stranger—Hullo! my friend, where are you from?

'Jes' from California, stranger.'

'Ah, indeed! and you can tell us then whether it's all true about that gold?' somewhat anxiously interrogated Dan in reply.

'Trew as you live!—and a darned sight more—for no man out of California really does live.'

'Then why did you come back?'

'Back?—why to get my family. Fact is, stranger, a man there gets so powerful rich that he becomes covetous of himself—and of he isn't very careful, will cut his own throat to rob himself. The root of all evil, you know—there's a lesson too much of it, and I left for a while—partly on that account.'

'Oh, you did, eh?'

'Yes—and between you and me—that's the only way a man can die in that blessed land.'

'Heavily climate, I suppose?'

'Healthy!—it ain't anything else. Why, stranger, you can choose there any climate you like—hot or cold—and that without travelling more than fifteen minutes. Jest think of that the next cold mornin' when you get out of bed. There's a mountain there—the Sawyer Nay-day, they call it—with a valley on each side of it—the one hot and the other cold. Well, get on the top of that mountain with a double-barreled gun, and you can, without movin', kill either summer or winter game, jest as you will.'

'What!—have you ever tried it?'

'Tried it often—and should have done pretty well, but for one thing.'

'Well, what was that?'

'I wanted a dog that would stand both climates. The last dog I had froze off his tail while platin on the summer side. He didn't git entirely out of the winter side, you see. Trew as you live!'

Marble smiled.—Albany Argus.

The great question which now agitates the country is, "Where is the man who has read Mr. Polk's Message?"—Platform.

Another great question is, where is the "Liberty party?" And another, where is the man who acknowledges that he voted for Van Buren?

The Platform has not published the President's message.—Bangor Democrat.

CALIFORNIA. They say that Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson, of New York, commander of the expedition which went to California about a year ago, has become immensely rich, and has already sent home a fortune. A writer in the Journal of Commerce says that \$200 will take a man to San Francisco by the Chagres route, and that he may have \$40 left; that there is no foundation for the story that 6000 or 8000 persons are at Panama waiting for a passage; and that passengers by this route will reach California by March, the commencement of the gold digging season. Around Cape Horn is 11,000 miles further, and three months longer, and the dangers greater than by the isthmus passage.

THE MINISTERS OF LOUIS PHILIPPE.—M. Gallardet, in his last letter, dated Paris, November 30, says:—The assembling chamber of the court of appeal of Paris has decided, like that of the correctional police, that there is no cause of proceeding against the last ministers of the ex-king. So Mr. Guizot and his colleagues may return to France if they choose, and become ministers, perhaps, even presidents of the republic.

JERUSALEM. The tide of immigration is setting towards the holy city, and the number of its Jewish population is rapidly increasing. The president Barabas has appealed to their brethren in Europe for aid to enlarge extensively their synagogue Beth El, while some leading Jews in Europe seriously contemplate the rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem.

LOUISIANA.—The great measure for which the legislature was convened by the governor, the school bill, appropriating \$50,000 for the support of the free public schools of the state, passed both branches on the 18th, and received the signature of Gov. Johnson. The legislature adjourned on the 20th.

OFFICIAL ZEAL. The Tallahassee, Fla. Sentinel of the 5th inst. says: "The sheriff of St. Lucie county, in this State, we are told, walked worked all the way to the capital to deposit his presidential returns. The distance is 450 miles, and 150 without road or house. He had died the latter distance in a bateau."

AMERICAN PROVISIONS FOR ENGLAND.—Packet ship Devonshire, Capt. Hovey will sail to-day for London, with almost an entire cargo of cheese, bacon, beef, pork and lard, weighing in the aggregate 1,668,897 lbs. one item alone being 17,000 boxes cheese. This is believed to be the largest cargo of provisions that ever left the port by a single vessel.—N. Y. Shipping List.

Gen. Taylor's remark to Judge Boyd, according to the Natchez Courier, was that "if the northern snailies interfered with the right of slave property in slave states, then he was in favor of drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard." That's all.

Mr. GLEASON, the enterprising publisher of the "Flag of our Union," offered two liberal prizes for original tales some weeks since, which were awarded yesterday. Edgar W. Davis, Esq. of New York, received the first prize of \$1000 for his story, called "The Knight of the Silver Cross," the publication of which will commence in the Flag of our Union on the first day of January. Martha Ann Clough, of Canterbury, N. H., was the successful competitor for the second prize of \$500, and her story, called "Pauline," is highly spoken of. Canterbury will be a better place than California for intellectual emigration, if all the young ladies there have such good winning intellects. These sums, when added to other premiums which we have mentioned during the present week, make \$2,700! Who can say that American genius is not paid.

SARTAIN'S UNION MAGAZINE OF LITERATURE AND ART, for February, 1848, has been received a month in advance. It contains a splendid full page Mezzotint engraving of the "First Apple," a full page Mezzotint engraving of "John the Baptist preaching in the Wilderness," a beautiful colored Tulp, and a half dozen other engravings; eighty pages of excellent reading matter, and two pages of music, arranged for the Piano Forte. The publishers announce that they have made arrangements by which the celebrated and popular Swiss writer, Miss Frederica Brown, and Miss Mary Howitt, two popular English writers, are to become regular contributors to the pages of their Magazine. This is an entire new feature in the history of our Magazine publishers, and one which speaks well for their enterprise. The Magazine is also enriched by contributions from a host of our best American writers, both male and female. This number is superior in every respect to the one for January, and the publishers announce their determination "that each succeeding number shall outstrip its predecessor." It is a rich number. Terms—\$3 per annum, or two copies for \$5, in advance. John Sartain & Co., Publishers, Philadelphia, Penn.

BRIGHTON MARKET.

(REPORTED FOR THE BOSTON JOURNAL.)

THURSDAY, DEC. 28.

At market during the week, 450 Beef Cattle, 1250 Sheep.

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NEW STORE & NEW FALL & WINTER GOODS.

A. C. DENISON & C. P. TRUE

HAVING FORMED A CONNECTION IN BUSINESS UNDER THE FIRM OF

DENISON & TRUE,

AND having made large additions to their Store the past Summer, making it now the largest Store in the County, are now receiving from Portland, Boston, and New York.

A Large and General Assortment of Goods,

adapted to the country trade, which, in consequence of their facilities for purchasing,

CAN AND WILL BE SOLD LOW;

and they would respectfully invite new and especially their old customers to call and examine their Stock of Goods, as we can and will sell at prices that shall satisfy. We intend to keep every article usually kept in a Variety Store, among which may be found

Blue, Black, Brown and Gold Mixed BROAD CLOTHS; Bayser and other thick Cloths for Overcoats; Fancy and Black Cashmeres and Fine Shirts; Steel Mineral, Green, and Blue Satinets; Vestings, of all qualities and styles.—Prints; Patchos.

DRESS AND CLOAK GOODS, such as Colours, Lustres, Lyonses, Alpaccas, Madam Stripes, M. de Laines, Gingham, &c. &c. Also

Brown and Bleached Sheetings, of all qualities; Tickings; Rattings; Red, White, and Orange Flannels; Gloves; Laces; Edgings; and White Goods of all kinds.

Hats, Caps, Buffaloes, Skulls, Feathers.

A Great Variety of ROOM PAPERS and CARPETINGS. Also—A Splendid Assortment of

Crockery Ware and Looking Glasses; Hard Ware;

W. I. Goods and Groceries, Corn, Flour, Nails, Glass, Iron, Steel,

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER,

RUBBER OVERSHOES, all kinds.

WRITING AND WRAPPING PAPER,

LAMP AND LINSEED OILS, PAINTS, GROUND LEAD, ETC.

WANTED,

10,000 Bushels of OATS; 2000 do. BEANS; 200 do. RYE;

20 Tons of APPLE; 10,000 Pounds of WOOL;

50 Tons of RAGS delivered at Paper Mill on Sheep Falls, or at their Store;

20 Tons ROUND HOGS in two or three weeks.

For which CASH in part will be paid, if wanted.

DENISON & TRUE.

Norway Village, Oct. 21, 1848. tf 25

STEPHEN EMERY, COUNSELLOR AND ATTORNEY AT LAW.

HAS returned to his former Office over the Probate Office, where he may be found at all business hours.

Persons indebted to the late copartnership of STEPHEN EMERY & SON are requested to call and make a settlement.

Paris, Dec. 4, 1848. tf 31

BLANKS! BLANKS!

A PRIME assortment of BLANKS, printed on good paper, kept constantly for sale at the Bookstore of the subscriber, among which are

Warranted Deeds, Mortgages, do for selling liquor, Affidavits, Assault and Battery, Search Warrants, Common Bonds, Jail Bonds, Poor Debtors Only, Citations, Subpoenas, Sheriffs' Sales, Town Orders, Warrants to Collectors, Highway Surveyors' Bills, Marriage Certificates, Intention of Marriage, Depositions, Returns to Depositions, Power of Attorney, Leaves, Justice Dockets, &c. &c. &c.

All orders for the above, accompanied by Cash, will be promptly attended to. B. WALTON, Paris Hill, Dec. 25, 1848. tf 24

P. TAPP,

WOULD respectfully inform the people of this vicinity and the public generally, that he has opened a

TAILOR'S SHOP

on PARIS HILL, nearly opposite the Baptist Church, where he will make all kinds of Garments according to the present style of Fashion, or to suit the peculiar taste of customers.

A share of public patronage is solicited. Several TAILORS wanted immediately. Dec. 25, 1848. * 24

SLEIGHS FOR SALE.

THE subscriber would inform his friends and the public generally, that he has on hand a large assortment of sleighs, which in style, finish, and durability cannot be excelled,—varying in price from twenty to seventy-five dollars, so that customers cannot fail of being suited.

Being desirous for the benefit of patrons heretofore received, he would respectfully solicit its continuance. Please call and examine before purchasing elsewhere. C. P. KIMBALL, Norway Village, Dec. 15, 1848. 21

T. H. KELLEY, TAILOR, NORWAY VILLAGE.

HAS just rec'd a new and good assortment of Goods adapted to the season, which he will manufacture into any description of Garments the taste of his customers may demand, at short notice and reasonable prices.

All work warranted to give perfect satisfaction. Wanted Immediately, Three or four Tailors, to whom good wages will be paid. Also—three or four Apprentices Girls. Norway, Dec. 8, 1848. 24-22

ISAIAH KNIGHT, DEALER IN STOVES, and Manufacturer of Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Ware, SOUTH PARIS, ME.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF STOVES, MANUFACTURED, and WARRANTED, constantly kept on hand, which will be sold as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

Also, patterns of Stove not on hand when called for will be obtained by first team, if desired. April 11, 1848. 49

REMOVAL.

BECKETT & INGRAM, HAVE REMOVED TO—

McLELLAN'S NEW STORE, 106 1-2 N. BIDDLE CORNER OF PLUMB ST., Nearly opposite the Canal House.

Portland, Sept. 8. 20-21

Stoves! Stoves!!

THE subscribers, Agents for the manufacturers, is now receiving a prime assortment of Cooking, Air-Tight and Box Stoves and Fire Frames.

FUNNEL and WARE, of the most perfect manufacture, and WARRANTED, constantly kept on hand, which will be sold as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

Also, patterns of Stove not on hand when called for will be obtained by first team, if desired. April 11, 1848. 49

IRON FOUNDRY, and STOVE WORKS, STEEP FALLS, NORWAY, MAINE.

BROWN & CO., PROPRIETORS.

Norway, Dec. 24, 1848. 25

ADAMS'S NEW ARITHMETIC, REVISED EDITION.

THIS valuable School Book contains the

characteristics of the former edition, in greatly improved form; with such corrections and additions as the wants of the times demand. It has been already very extensively adopted in place of the old edition, and is received with the most unqualified approval.

Adams's New Arithmetic is almost the only work on Arithmetic used in extensive sections of N. England. It is used in every part of the United States; and in the State of New York, is the Text Book in ninety-three of the one hundred and fifty-five Academies which reported to the Regents of the University in 1847. It has been adapted to the currency of, and re-published in Canada. It has been translated, and re-published in France. Notwithstanding the multiplication of Arithmetics, made up, many of them, of the material of this work, it has steadily increased in the public favor and demand.

Adams's Arithmetical Series.

The attention of Preceptors of Academies, Teachers and Superintendents in our Common Schools, and all those interested in education, is invited to the full series of Arithmetical Works now published. Copies will be furnished for examination on application to either of the publishers.

I.—PRIMARY ARITHMETIC, or MENTAL OPERATIONS IN NUMBERS, being an introduction to Adams's New Arithmetic, revised edition.

II.—ADAMS'S NEW ARITHMETIC, REVISED EDITION, being a revision of Adams's New Arithmetic, first published in 1827.

III.—KEY TO THE REVISED EDITION OF ADAMS'S NEW ARITHMETIC.

IV.—MENSURATION, MECHANICAL POWERS, AND ALGEBRA. The principles of mensuration analytically explained, and practically applied to the measurement of lines, surfaces, and solids; also, a philosophical system of the simple mechanical powers, and their application to machinery. Designed to follow Adams's New Arithmetic. (In press.)

BOOK-KEEPING. This work contains a lucid explanation of the science of accounts, a new, concise and common sense method of book-keeping, by Double Entry, and various forms of receipts, orders, notes, bonds, mortgages, and other instruments necessary for the transaction of business. Accompanied with Blank Books for the use of learners. Published by

PHILLIPS & SAMPSON, Boston.

COLLINS & BROTHER, New-York.

W. PRENTISS & CO., KEENE, N. H.

Nov. 25, 1848. 16-50

FIRE! FIRE!! FIRE!!! Farmers Attend!!

THE attention of Farmers is particularly invited to the system of the WASHINGTON COUNTY INSURANCE COMPANY, where they insure on their HOUSES, BARNS, HAY, GRAIN, LIVE STOCK, &c., in which, the policy is issued on more favorable conditions than with any other company now existing, the system differing from any other in that it has hitherto cost comparatively nothing, and in all cases will cost little or nothing to insure with this Company for years to come. It now has about 35,000 members, and is issuing at the present time at the rate of 20,000 Policies per annum, principally on FAIR PROPERTY. No property in kind or exposed parts of villages, Mills, Shops, or other property considered hazardous, is insured in this Company.

Those erecting new buildings, or whose Policies with other Companies are about expiring, and all others, will find it for their interest to call on the subscriber.

W. D. LITTLE, General Agent, No. 28, Exchange Street, PORTLAND.

Or THOMAS LUDIN, Esq., Turner Village, J. S. REITH, Esq., Oxford, (Craigs Mills,) MARY J. STALL, FRENCH, Esq., Lewiston.

Applications by mail, post paid, promptly attended to. 16-50 Oct. 17.

Buckfield Branch Rail Road.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the President and Directors of the Buckfield Branch Rail Road Company have made the second assessment of Five Dollars on each and every share, subscribed for and taken in the Capital Stock of said Company, and that the same will be due and payable to the Treasurer at his office in Buckfield, on the 15th day of January next.

WASHINGTON LONG, Treasurer of the B. B. R. Co. Buckfield, Dec. 4th, 1848. 21

PRESSEY & BARROWS,

MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN

Furniture, Chairs, &c.,

NORWAY VILLAGE, ME.

Lost!

On Wednesday evening, November 29, two Notes—one dated Leeds, Jan. 12, 1847, for one hundred and six dollars, payable to Wm. Carver, Jr. for balance, signed

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